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DIRECTORATE OF
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Peru: President Velasco is maintaining his intransigent position on major issues in dispute.

In a private conversation with the US ambassador, Velasco expressed regret over Peru's decision to oust the military missions but said that there was no alternative in the face of US sanctions. He said Peru was "threatened on all sides by amendments" and that if the US continued to apply sanctions Peru would continue to take countermeasures.

The President reiterated the foreign minister's earlier statement that Peru would not go to a conference dealing with the territorial waters problem under the pressure of present and future US sanctions. In reference to this point, Peru has asked Chile and Ecuador to join it in a communiqué declaring that if the proposed Pelly amendment relating to seizures of fishing boats is passed by the US Congress, the three countries will take appropriate measures to protect their 200-mile territorial waters.

On the IPC problem Velasco said that the US must understand Peru's position. He said that no one expected Peru to collect the \$690 million it claimed IPC owed it and implied that the US should not worry about that figure. He added that it was his understanding that Ambassador Irwin's return to Peru was conditioned on agreement by Peru to pay compensation for the expropriated property. He could not accept Irwin's return on the basis of prior conditions.

Velasco made a lame excuse for canceling Governor Rockefeller's visit and otherwise attempted to soften the harshness of his intransigence. He pointed out that neither he nor the Peruvian Army officers could be anti-American. He contends that his government is anti-Communist and that the military junta has passed no laws favoring Communism.

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NOTES

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Venezuela:

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Although the military consider the demonstrations a civilian matter, they may be forced to help maintain order if the situation continues to deteriorate. The arrival of Governor Rockefeller Monday is likely to precipitate widespread disorders by students and left-wing extremists. The demonstrations could spread if the instigators of the present disorders realize the government's confusion and lack of policy toward the protests.

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